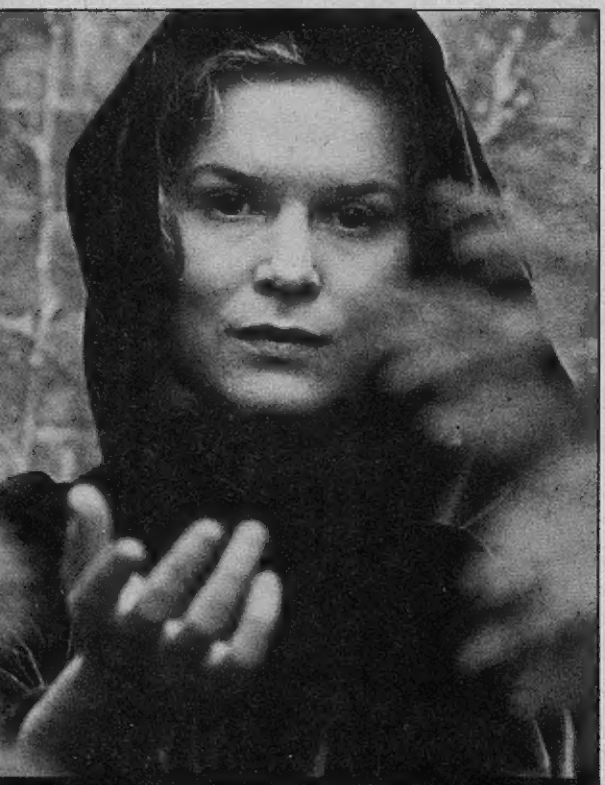
GHOST STORY

a chiller about revenge from beyond the grave!



"The Beckoning Fair One."

What was the worst thing you've ever done?"

"I won't tell you that, but I'll tell you the worst thing that ever happened to me . . . the most dreadful thing . . ..."

With those two lines, author Peter Straub drew audiences the world over into one of the most terrifying tales ever told.

An eerie, complex story of—

Vengeance!

Death!

Shape-changing!

A story of four men who live in fear of the ultimate evil!

four fearful folks

Fifty years ago, four men committed an act of betrayal which has haunted them ever since. Now, the men are leaders of their New England community:

Sears James is a noted lawyer.

Edward Wanderly is the mayor of their fair city of Milburn.

Dr. John Jaffrey is a noted physician.

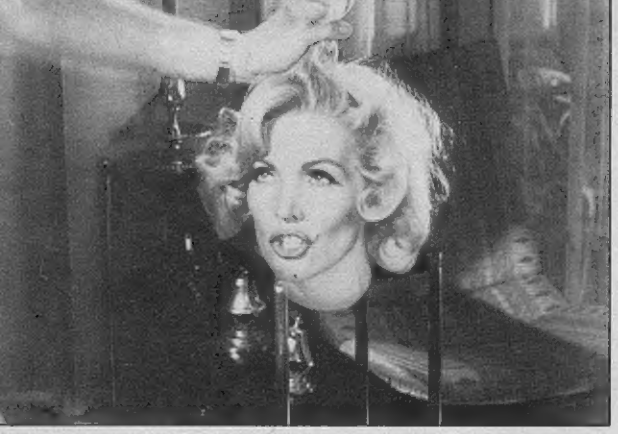
Frederick Hawthorne, like Sears James, is an attorney.

All just happen to be killers as well!

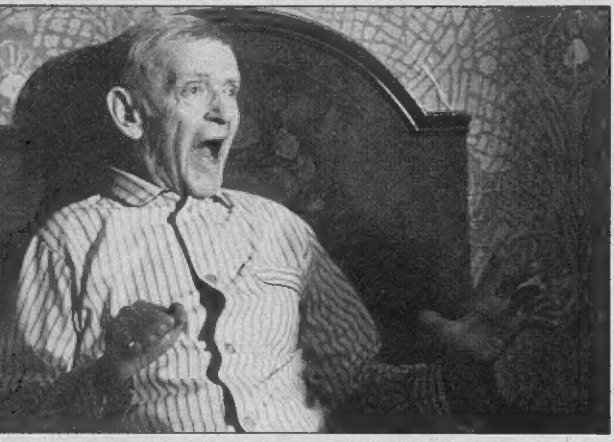
All just happen to be terribly guilt-stricken about the vicious act they committed a half-century before.

All just happen to be targets of the spirit of their victim, a spectre which will not rest . . .

"O my God!"



"I just can't keep a thing on my stomach", complained Juli Reding in head role in TORMENTED, another great Ghost Story.



Fred Astaire's heart is dancing in his throat at the sight of some terrible thing offscreen.

Handy item to have around the house--if you have an appetite for ladyfingers. (The late Richard Carlson was TORMENTED in 1960.)

The quartet of Milburnites belong to a very select group of men called The Chowder Society. In fact, they're the *only* members.

The felons established the Chowder Society years before, for one purpose and one purpose only: to try and exorcise the guilt they feel for their long-ago act of treachery.

Each night, the men of the Chowder Society meet to tell each other stories.

Ghost Stories!

Night after night they try to tell each other stories that are so horrifying, so *awful* that it will drive out the memory of the very *real* evil for which they were responsible.

Remember the anthology horror film VAULT OF HORROR from 1973?

Five people, unable to leave an office building one night ride the elevator down . . . *way* down, to a desolate chamber in the basement.

There, they pass the time telling each other stories, revealing the worst nightmares they have ever had.

One man tells about a cafe run by vampires, in which *he* is the main course!

Another tells of how he was so obsessively tidy that his wife hacked him to pieces and put each organ oh-so-neatly into jars!

A third has himself buried alive to collect the insurance money, only it isn't a friend who comes to dig him up, but graverobbers—who promptly kill him!

The fourth is haunted by the magic rope of a swami he has slain.

And finally, an artist is able to destroy people by painting their portraits and then disfiguring the artwork—only to suffer a similar fate when turpentine spills over his self-portrait!

Each of these people finally realizes that they are not in a skyscraper, that these are *not* nightmares—

The stories really happened, and their fate is to tell them over and over throughout eternity, for each of them is already . . . *dead*!

The members of the Chowder Society have it far, far worse: they're still alive!

the choke's on you!

For all those long and nightmarish years, the men have been unable to leave town, so great is their need to be together, to tell each other ghost stories, to hope that *one* story will finally be frightening enough to shatter the hold of their awesome guilt.

Then . . . one night . . . they *find* such a story!

There's only one problem: it's no story.

It's *real*!

Not the fiction of a disordered mind!

Their victim has come back to get them, to destroy the members of the Chowder Society.

And one by one . . . slowly, and in the most heartstopping manner possible . . . striking at the soul as well at the flesh . . . the men are made to suffer for what they did . . .

The lady in the lake has a sinking sensation that she isn't going to get out of that car alive but is soon to be a ghost in GHOST STORY.

they're really nice guys

Despite the nastiness they create on the screen, the men of the Chowder Society are among Hollywood's finest and most respected actors.

Starring as Frederick Hawthorne is Fred Astaire, an eighty-one-year-old veteran of nearly forty motion pictures. Though he is best known for his musicals, Astaire has also appeared in the science fiction classic from 1959 ON THE BEACH.

Playing the part of Sears James, Esq., is another man who is no stranger to the SF and horror realm. Though John Houseman is famous for his role as Professor Kingsfield on the award winning TV series THE PAPER CHASE, he has also appeared in such fantasy films as—

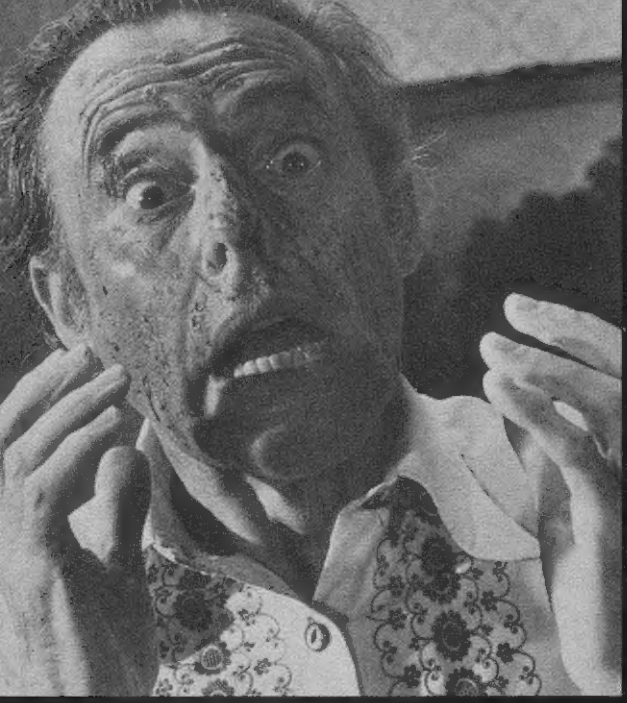
ROLLERBALL, the 1975 futureworld action flick in which violent sport has replaced warfare! And—

THE FOG, John (ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK) Carpenter's supernatural adventure about spirits who lurk inside a crawling, marauding mist.

Appearing as Dr. Jaffrey is the late Melvyn Douglas, who starred in the gothic classic THE OLD DARK HOUSE, made in 1932 and one of the finest of the Universal bloodcurdlers . . . a film he made with none other than Boris Karloff.

As for His Honor Edward Wanderly, he is played by none other than Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., who starred in the 1947 Arabian Nights fan-

William Castle's hottest ghost, the toast of 1960 in 13 GHOSTS.



Victim faces the acid test of horror in VAULT OF HORROR.

tasy SINBAD THE SAILOR, not to mention the granddaddy of all adventure films—GUNGA DIN!

And that's not all!

Rounding out the cast, last but far, far from least, is one of the most famous SF stars in all of screen history!

The lady who uttered the immortal words which helped to keep a towering robot from destroying our planet in THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL!

The woman who has traded her legendary "Klaatu barada niktu" for a shriek in GHOST STORY, playing Frederick Hawthorne's wife Stella.

None other than the incredible, one-of-a-kind Patricia Neal.

Also seen in GHOST STORY are:

Craig Watson, costarring as the twin sons of Edward Wanderly and a veteran of the shocker SCHIZOID.

Alice Krige, a South African beauty!

Jacqueline Brookes, as Dr. Jaffrey's nurse.

Brad Sullivan, who plays Milburn's tough Sheriff Hardesty.

And Miguel Fernandez, who has perhaps the most important role of all:

He plays a creature who is half-mortal, half-devil and *all* evil in the eyes of the men of the Chowder Society.

painting an unpretty picture

One of the most important contributions to GHOST STORY is the work of Albert Whitlock.

Whitlock is a matte painter, the artist who creates vistas which are too expensive to build. He's the man who helped to destroy Los Angeles in EARTHQUAKE, winning an Academy Award for his havoc—

Who raised a zeppelin from the ashes for THE HINDENBURG, earning yet another Oscar—

Who painted landscapes and buildings on-view in other films including—

HEARTBEEPS!

COLOSSUS, THE FORBIN PROJECT!

Alfred Hitchcock's FRENZY, TORN CURTAIN, TOPAZ, MARNIE, and THE BIRDS!

THE CAR!

And the James Bond film DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER!

Whitlock paints his incredibly detailed renderings on glass, leaving a "hole" where the live action scenes will be inserted. His paintings are carefully done so that they'll match the "real" portion of the set which has been built, creating the illusion that the *whole* building, town, or—as in the case of GHOST STORY—cemetery has been constructed.

the devil's dad

The author of GHOST STORY is a mild-mannered, bespectacled man, the least-likely looking creator of sheer terror.

But don't be misled! In addition to GHOST STORY, Straub has written the occult classic SHADOWLAND (just out in paperback from Berkley Books), and, prior to these bestsellers, penned the unnerving JULIA, which is *also* a motion picture currently in release as THE HAUNTING OF JULIA. That one stars Mia (ROSEMARY'S BABY) Farrow and Keir (2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY) Dullea.

tradition of terror

Ever play *GHOST*?

If you haven't, that's the game where your opponent tries to get you to spell a word. Each time you do, it's a strike against you.

Well, people who play *GHOST* for *real* face danger greater than any word game. The evils they dare are—

*G*hastly!

*H*orrorific!

*O*ccult!

*S*pinetingling!

*T*errifying!

Here are just a few of the people who, like the Chowder Society, have had to face vengeful ghosts in motion pictures.

Thirteen Ghosts: paleontologist Cyrus Zorba meets ectoplasmic entities like the Floating Head, the Hanging Woman, and The Headless Lion Tamer at the crusty old mansion he inherits from his uncle in this 1960 movie.

Tormented: a pianist kills his mistress by pushing her from the top of a lighthouse in Bert I. Gordon's 1960 flick. Throughout the movie she

Mild-mannered "Uncle Milty" a hatchetman? Change of pace for comedian Milton Berle in WHISPERING GHOSTS, 1942. (Note John Carradine too.)

haunts him until he, too, falls to his death . . . his body discovered tangled with that of the woman he murdered!

PICTURE MOMMY DEAD: another Gordon effort, this one in 1968 about a young girl haunted by her dead mother.

THE INNOCENTS: a British governess named Miss Giddens comes to watch over two young children, only to find that her predecessor is still lurking about . . . as a ghost. This 1961 film was perhaps the finest of all the ghost stories . . . until now!

sears james speaks!

Actor John Houseman spoke to FAMOUS MONSTERS and had this to say about his new film.

"The novel GHOST STORY is hideously complicated, and towards the end Straub puts in everything but the kitchen stove. Because of the compelling nature of horror novels, you read on. But if you saw some of these things on the screen, you'd howl with laughter.

"By cutting some of the fairly loony elements of the book, I think we've made a picture which is considerably more literate and educated.

"In any case, we've used nothing disgusting like you find in THE EXORCIST or THE OMEN or ROSEMARY'S BABY. This is an old-fashioned but classic story of evil that is finally able to pay retribution."

One of the reasons cited by Houseman, and others on the film, for its high quality is the screenplay.

GHOST STORY was adapted for the screen by writer Lawrence D. Cohen, whose previous effort in this genre is the cult hit CARRIE, filmed in 1976 and based on Stephen King's bestselling novel. Cohen *does* seem to have a "thing" for turning popular books into popular movies!

Another definite plus to the film is its director, John Irvin. Though he's a newcomer to the fantasy field, he comes with super(natural) credentials, having directed the British-made TV hit "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy."

clammed chowder

"What was the worst thing you've ever done?"

Before GHOST STORY has ended, the audience has the answer to that question.

You'll also learn why an actress by the name of Ann-Veronica Moore causes a member of the Chowder Society to die of fright!

What unbelievable hold a girl by the name of Alma Mobley has over one of her teachers.

Why a young lady named Angie Maule is utterly unafraid of the youth who abducts her.

Why the initials "A.M." spell doom for the members of the Chowder Society.

A.M.—as in *A*mazing *M*onsterfilm!

*A*mazingly *M*acabre!!

'*A*ir-raising *M*ovie!!!

END